

California's Natural Wildlands Legacy

Sierra Foothills

Bureau of Land Management California

The Sierra Nevada Mountains are a spectacular part of California's landscape, supplying most of the state's water and a significant portion of its recreation and natural beauty. The Sierra Foothills are the lower elevations (4,000') of the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, where ecosystems make a transition from valley grasslands through oak woodlands to mixed coniferous forests dominated by ponderosa pine.

The foothills have a rich cultural history, having been the traditional home to several tribes of California Indians, and the location of the Great Gold Rush of 1849. Today, the foothills are a popular residential and light industrial region, where small towns, still rural in character, share the landscape with fast-developing suburban communities near major metropolitan areas.

BLM manages public lands up and down the nearly 400 mile course of the foothills, including many of the rivers flowing from the snow-capped peaks. Recreation opportunities are abundant with such activities as white water rafting, recreational gold panning and dredging, fishing, hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, and just getting away from it all.

Partners in Watershed Protection

California's burgeoning population is moving into the Sierra foothills, bringing new groups and cultures into the mix of public lands, critical watersheds, and the traditional users of these areas. BLM and many partners work to protect these watersheds, while providing open space for a booming population searching for a place to play.

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Kern River Partners

In the southernmost portion of the Sierra Foothills, the Kern River valley supports an amazing diversity of plant life, including the finest remaining cottonwood-willow forest in California, which supports many sensitive bird species. The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, and the California Department of Fish and Game work with the BLM to conserve this area. Water lovers flock to Keyesville on the Kern River to launch their rafts. They enjoy improved launching areas thanks to BLM partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

Kaweah River Recreation

The Kaweah River Recreation area is a significant resource for Fresno and Tulare Counties, providing public access to the North Fork of the Kaweah River. The BLM manages three public sites along a five-mile stretch of the river near the community of Three Rivers.

Case Mountain

Preservation of the six groves of giant sequoias on Case Mountain, the only trees of this kind on BLM land anywhere, is among the goals of the Kaweah/Tule Watershed Management Council. Researchers love these trees and participate with the Council and the Giant Sequoia Ecology Cooperative.

Cameron Park Unit

Located in western El Dorado County, the Cameron Park Unit is one of five units in the Pine Hill Ecological Preserve. The Preserve is designated to protect eight rare plant species and the associated ecosystems they inhabit. Five of these plants are listed as endangered or threatened. Three of the plants can be found in no other place.

Rare Soils, Plants, Animals

The 90-acre Ione Soil Area of Critical Environmental Concern was set aside to preserve examples of ancient soils formed when central California had a tropical climate more than 25 million years ago.



*"Never
doubt that
a small
group of
thoughtful,
committed
citizens can
change the
world.
Indeed, it's
the only
thing that
ever has."*

Margaret Mead



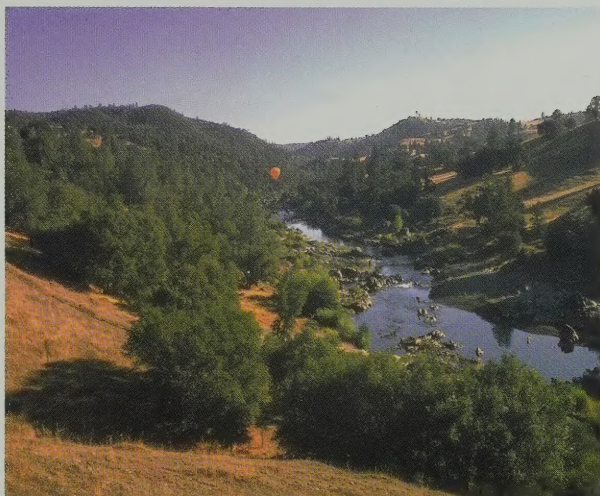
Your lands....Your legacy!



*A giant Sequoia on
Case Mountain*



*South Fork
American River.
This scenic vista
overlooking the
historic Coloma
Valley where James
Marshall discovered
gold in January,
1848 was protected
in 1996*



*A historic feature on
the Merced River
has been restored,
and is now the
Briceburg Visitor
Center*

Goals for the Sierra Foothills

Searching for the remaining natural treasures, BLM seeks to find and protect these treasures for future generations. Working with many partners, provide protection of the watersheds, while serving a booming population in search of places to go.



Partnerships

Sierra Pacific Industries

Lassen County

California State Lands Commission

Yuba County

American River Conservancy

El Dorado Irrigation District

El Dorado County

Giant Sequoia Ecology Cooperative

California Department of Fish and
Game

Bureau of Reclamation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Park Service

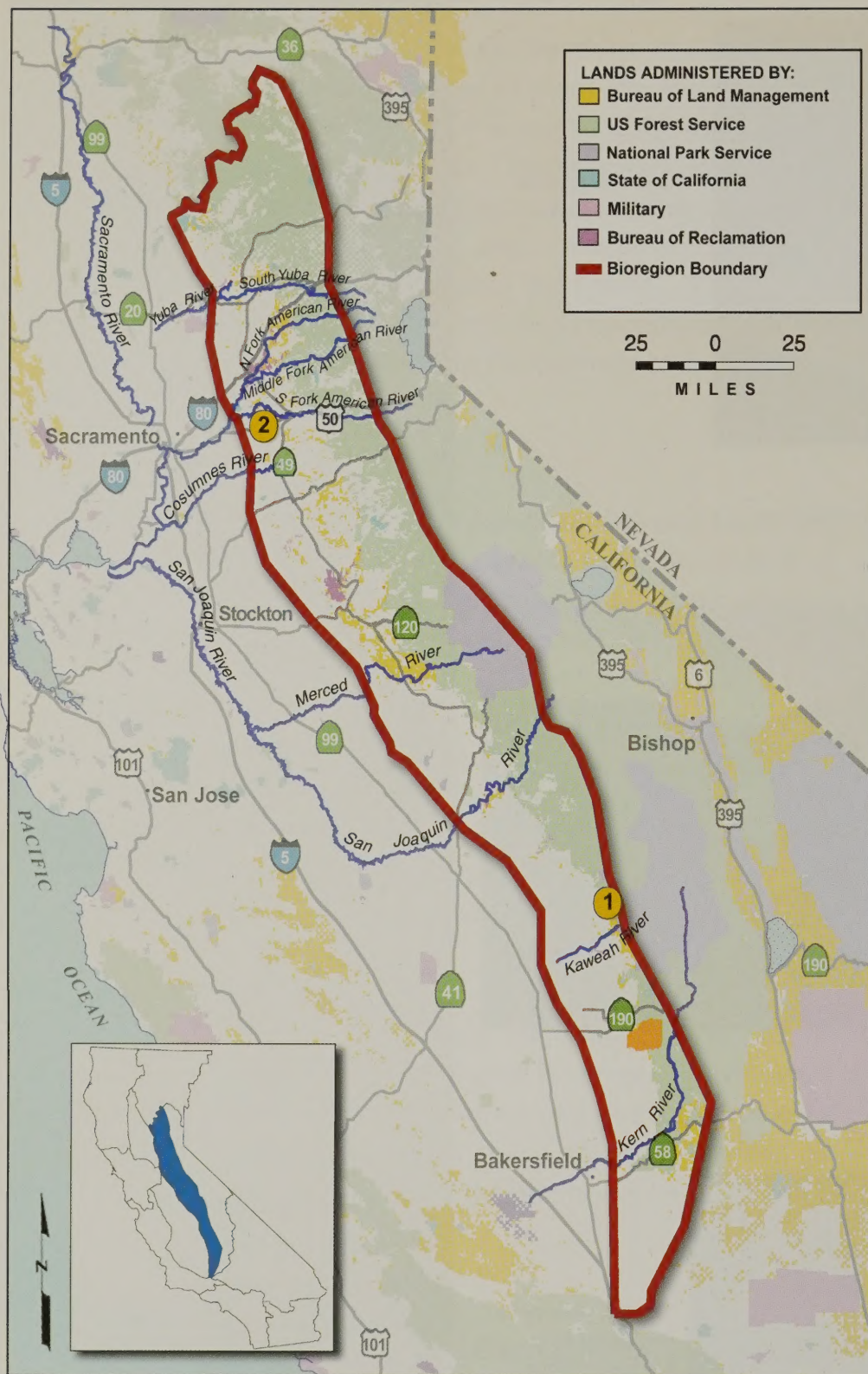
U.S. Forest Service

Corps of Engineers



Key Assets of the Sierra Foothills

- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Oak Woodlands
- Case Mountain
- Pine Hill Ecological Preserve



Sierra Foothills



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